

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 18th August 1900.

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THE

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 6th August says that the Persians ought to try to promote their commerce and to encourage the manufacture of cloth in their own country. The woollen, the cotton and the silk manufactures of Persia are far superior to those of other countries. But unfortunately the Persians prefer foreign manufactures to Persian manufactures.

HABLUL MATEEN,
Aug. 6th, 1900.

2. The same paper says that if the ruler of an Islamic kingdom wishes to preside over the temporal as well as the spiritual interests of his subjects, he should govern his kingdom according to the Muhammadan law. In that case, the officials who are now lording it over in the Musalman States will be compelled to reform their character. As the mere uttering of the word sugar will not sweeten the mouth, so also our complaints against the Persian officials will not reform an Islamic Government. Nay, we fear that our complaints may aggravate the weakness of the Islamic world, may create an ill-feeling between the rulers and the ruled, and may encourage the infidels and the outlanders in interfering with things Islamic. Whatever we say, we say from our experience. We have no selfish motives and we are well-wishers of Islam. We say what we think to be our duty to say. It is the duty of the Musalman rulers to mend matters. It is impossible for them to do this, unless they set about in right earnest to do good to Islam. As soon as the *Alims* are called to take part in the government of the kingdom, the want of unity between one class of Musalmans and another will disappear. Had Nasiruddin done any harm to his religion, piety, wisdom, knowledge and sanctity by co-operating with Halaca Khan? If that was for good, we ought, for the sake of future generations, to do what is good for us, before our want of unity brings about the ruin of Islam, and our children become prisoners in the hands of the infidels. The European statesmen say that the strength of the Sultan of Turkey is mainly due to the fact that he is the religious head of the Musalman world. If the *Alims* recognise the Sultan as the religious head of the Shia sect, in so far as their religion allows, their strength is sure to be increased.

HABLUL MATEEN.

3. The same paper says that the prosperity of a Government depends upon the ability of the governing body. When the Franco-German war was about to be declared, Napoleon III, the then Emperor of France, asked the military authorities whether the fighting strength of France was sufficient for the purpose of defending her against the Germans. The authorities perfunctorily replied in the affirmative and thus deceived Napoleon. The Emperor of Germany also put the same question to his military officers, who, after a minute scrutiny, assured him that Germany was in no wise inferior to France. When the war broke out between the two countries, the French were unable to bring to the field more than three million troops, while the German army was eight millions. This shows the ability of the German military authorities and the inability of the French military authorities.

HABLUL MATEEN.

4. A correspondent of the same paper says that the Custom authorities seized in the Custom House of Bushire some boxes containing very beautiful marble engravings. It was proved, on inquiry, that some Europeans had detached these from the throne of King Jamshid (a Zoroastrian King) in Shiraz, and were carrying them to Europe.

HABLUL MATEEN.

5. The same paper says that Lord Salisbury in one of his speeches has displeased the Christian missionaries of England by attributing the origin of the present Chinese war to their conduct. Some of the missionaries say that Lord Salisbury's speech not only indicates that it is based upon misapprehension, but also that he is a fool.

HABLUL MATEEN.

The real cause of the present Chinese war is that magnetic power of European diplomacy by which the Europeans seek to infuse new life into the savage and half-savage people who are now as good as dead. The time is near when new life should be breathed into China, and then the European Powers will understand that they have acted against the injunctions of Jesus Christ.

A nation, which is still sleeping, ought to take a lesson from Lord Salisbury's speech for its future guidance.

BHARAT MITRA,
Aug. 13th, 1900.

6. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 13th August says that a war has broken out in China, in which the Chinese people are on one side and England, Russia, Germany,

The Chinese war.

Austria, Spain, Italy, France and Japan are on the other. Up to this time the allied forces have sustained a severe loss, but still the fighting is going on stubbornly, and the allied forces have not lost heart. It is doubtful whether the Chinese Government is neutral in this outbreak. It seems that England intends to preserve the integrity of the Chinese Empire, but the other Powers want to annex China. England intends to preserve peace in China by inflicting a crushing defeat upon the rebellious Chinese, but the other Powers intend to bring about a dismemberment of the Empire. It seems that to conquer China by the united strength of Europe is not difficult, but it is difficult to settle the policy which should be followed in governing the country.

BHARAT MITRA.

7. The same paper says that the Christian missionaries of Europe go to

Christian missionaries in China.

China to preach the Gospel among the people of China, but the people of China say that they are the cause of the ruin of the Chinese Empire. The Chinese people, therefore, do not hesitate to kill those missionaries wherever they are found. The slaughter of missionaries by the Chinese has been going on for the last forty years. In 1870, there was such a slaughter in Tientsin. Again, in 1895, there was another such slaughter. On that occasion the Chinese were so infuriated that they massacred indiscriminately all the Christians whom they met.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Aug. 7th, 1900.

8. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 7th August has the following:—

Increase of dacoity in the country.

Till a short time ago, dacoities were very scarce in the Burdwan district, and people enjoyed a perfect sense of security. For some years, however, dacoities have become rife in the district, and the village people are living in constant dread of dacoits, who are freely roaming about, and are, from time to time, bringing ruin upon the people. All efforts of the Government to put them down have failed. Dacoits have, in fact, grown bolder than before.

Dacoits, in former days, respected the sex, and never committed any oppression upon them. But they do not do so now. This is one of the reasons why people fear dacoits more now than they did before.

Within a year, four or five dacoities have been committed within the jurisdiction of the Jamalpur thana in this district; and the police have failed to trace the offenders in all of them. One of these was committed on the 29th July last in the house of Babu Uma Charan Sarkar of Jot Kubir, Kalna. According to an eye-witness, the number of the dacoits was large, and the noise they made awakened the villagers, but not one among the latter dared to oppose the dacoits, and all of them stood looking on.

To provide for a better watch and ward in the villages Government confiscated chaukidari lands and imposed the chaukidari cess. As the result, however, of this arrangement, no improvement of the village watch is seen: on the contrary there has been a deterioration of that watch. There are now in many villages fewer chaukidars than before.

It is usual to blame the police for the increase of dacoity. But a little reflection will show that the police are not alone responsible for this. It is not possible for the eight or ten constables and one Sub-Inspector in a thana either to prevent dacoities in the two or three hundred villages they have to look after, or to find out the dacoits after they have done their work.

To put down dacoity Government should increase the strength of the police force in each thana, employing really able chaukidars and keeping a number of detective officers in every district. Without such changes in the police organisation, dacoities cannot be checked, nor will offenders be traced.

9. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th August has the following:—

Alleged outrage upon a woman in the Backergunge district.

Basanta Kumar Ganguli is a resident of Udaykathi, in the Backergunge district. On the 24th July last, he was away from home. Taking advantage of his absence, some twenty or twenty-five Musalmans, among whom were the four sons of his neighbour Asadali, broke silently into his house at about 3 A.M. on the following day. Asadali's second son, Rahimaddi, accompanied by Safedali, Fajerali and seven or eight others, noiselessly entered into the room in which Rajlakshmi, Basanta's niece, a beautiful unmarried girl of sixteen or seventeen, was sleeping with her mother and brother, gagged the girl, and in spite of the resistance offered by her mother and brother, who were awakened by her struggles, carried her away. The cries of the mother and brother brought some neighbours to the house, but when they came, the *badmashes* had disappeared with the girl.

The next day, Tarak Chandra Ganguli, Rajlakshmi's brother, laid a complaint before the Deputy Magistrate of Pirojpur, and Babu Prasanna Kumar Das, Police Inspector, was deputed to make an investigation. The Inspector went direct to the house of Asadali and arrested him and his youngest son, and left some constables there to watch for the other accused. Rahimaddi came secretly at dead of night to see his mother and was arrested. He confessed his guilt and gave information as to the whereabouts of Rajlakshmi. The girl had first been taken to the house of Fajerali and thence to the house of Gani Talukdar, of Durgapur, and last of all to the house of one Panchamala Bibi, of Bajukathi, where Safedali and another man were placed as guards upon her. The police found Rajlakshmi in Panchamala's house and arrested the two guards.

In her deposition before the Deputy Magistrate, Rajlakshmi gave a detailed account of the oppression committed upon her, and said that Rahimaddi, Safedali and Fajerali had committed rape upon her, adding that Rahimaddi had made a proposal to marry her in the *nika* form.

The above account of the outrage has been sent to us by a correspondent. What we fear is, lest the frequent occurrence of such cases should lead to some disturbance in the country. In histories written by Englishmen we read that the honour and chastity of women were not safe under Musalman rule. It may have been so, seeing that, compared with the English, the Musalman rulers were a half-civilised people, and that their rule was not so strict as that of the English. But how is it that outrages upon women are so frequent under the civilised British rulers, and under the vigorous British Government?

10. The same paper complains of the prevalence of theft in Kengarpara and the neighbouring villages in the Khulna district. When a theft is reported at the thana, the thana authorities come to enquire at their

Prevalence of theft in some villages in the Khulna district.

leisure, entertain themselves sumptuously at the expense of the complainant, pocket some money and go away, without doing much to trace either the thief or the stolen property. For this reason people make no reports at the thana.

11. A correspondent of the same paper complains that thieves have become extremely busy in Sainhati, in the Khulna district. They do not allow people to sleep unmolested at night, but are constantly breaking

Thieves in a village in the Khulna district.

into houses, forcing open doors and cutting through mat walls. The attention of the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police is invited to the condition of the village.

12. A correspondent of the same paper complains that *badmashi* is rife in Katipara, a village in the Khulna district. The *badmashes* have grown bolder since their success in implicating two innocent brothers in an alleged

Badmashi in a village in the Khulna district.

offence of enticing away a young woman. Security for good behaviour was taken from the two brothers. From that time the *badmashes* have been committing or attempting to commit outrages on women, not only at night, but also by day. The following cases have occurred within the last five or six months:—

(1) Outrages were committed one night upon some female members of the family of Babu Kailas Nath, the *badmashes* effecting an entrance into his house at night by breaking through a wall.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
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Aug. 8th, 1900.

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(2) Some *badmashes* attempted one night to cut through a wall of the house of one Fuji Baruni.

(3) Some *badmashes* committed oppression in the house of one Kedar Nath in the neighbouring village of Sainhati.

(4) An attempt was made one day to commit outrage upon the wife of Babu Jnanendra Nath De, of Katipara.

These cases ought to be investigated.

KHULNA,
Aug. 9th, 1900.

13. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 9th August says that one Manser Ali Khan, a constable in the Khulna police, applied to Babu Ras Bihari Biswas, District Superintendent of Police, for three months' leave on urgent private affairs. The man has some landed property in the Ghazipur district, which was going to be put up to auction for arrears of revenue, as revenue had not been paid for quarrels among co-sharers. Manser Ali has no male member in his family who can look after his affairs. He, therefore, applied for leave, submitting two applications, one after the other, both of which the District Superintendent rejected. Manser Ali then applied to Mr. Hamilton, District Magistrate. Mr. Hamilton forwarded the application to the District Superintendent, who was so enraged at this that he not only rejected the application but by way of punishment, appointed Manser Ali to do the duty of a treasury guard. The poor man once more made an application to Mr. Mukherji, the new Magistrate. But that officer advised him to make a representation to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, as he himself had no voice in the matter. The District Superintendent even rejected the applicant's prayer for striking his name off the rolls, and told him that his name would be removed after he had served as a treasury guard for two months.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 10th, 1900.

14. A correspondent writes in the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th August, that one Bidhu Dasi, of Panchghara, in the Hooghly district, has been fraudulently recruited as a tea-garden cooly. The woman turned almost mad in the month of March last, and went to Calcutta. She put up in the house of one Ram Narayan Bhattacharyya, of Chorebagan, and suddenly disappeared one day. No trace was found of her until the 16th July last, when a letter was received from her, from which it appears that the woman is in great distress and is willing to return home.

HITAVADI.

15. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the recrudescence of theft in Garden Reach. Two of the local cotton mills are now closed, and about six or seven thousand labourers are out of work. There are a gang of *gundas* and a colony of Kabulis in the neighbourhood. The Kabulis are seen prowling about at night. During the rainy season the constables do not visit the interior. Garden Reach is an important police station, but it has been without an Inspector for a month.

BANGABHUMI.
Aug. 14th, 1900.

16. The *Bangabhumi* [Calcutta] of the 14th August writes as follows:—
Outrage on female chastity. matter of every-day occurrence in Bengal. Every week we have to write about such cases. These cases are taking place everywhere—in Mymensingh and Pabna, Barisal and Dacca. Almost every week women are being abducted and ruthlessly ravished. Most of the fiends who perpetrate this crime are low class Musalmans. They are committing these outrages almost with impunity, and the law seems to be powerless against them. Is the police asleep? Has it forgotten its duty? The police ought to keep a sharp eye upon low class and turbulent Musalmans everywhere. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will direct the police to take steps to put down this crime.

While on this subject, we earnestly call upon all educated Musalmans of Bengal to take steps to reform the character of their low class brethren, to exercise their influence in preventing the commission of this heinous crime. We also call upon the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar*, the organ of the Bengal Musalmans, to help in reforming the moral character of low class Musalmans.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 8th, 1900.

17. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th August says that, according to the *Paridarsak* newspaper, Mr. Hart, Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar, in Assam, was on his

way home after closing his cutcherry on the 28th June last, when he told his punkha-bearer, Jivan Mali, to call the *peshkar*. Jivan, failing to understand what Mr. Hart's order was, told him so. Thereupon Mr. Hart threw Jivan down on the ground with a blow on his head which drew a copious stream of blood. Jivan is now being treated in the hospital, whilst Mr. Hart, who beat his own servant like a coward, is still filling the responsible post of a Magistrate. If Mr. Hart really beat his servant as is reported, he is a hot-headed man who ought not to be allowed to remain in his present responsible position.

18. The same paper says that the Manager of the Iranigal tea-garden in Assam was fined Rs. 150 by the Subdivisional Officer of Karimganj for assaulting a cooly. The circumstances of the case were as follows:—The cooly, who was the complainant, had some high words with the Babu of the garden about his attendance. The matter was reported to the Manager, who was enraged and came, cane in hand, to the place where the cooly was standing and began to beat him. The poor fellow cried and fell down on his back, still the beating went on. At last the cane broke, the cooly became unconscious, and the Manager went away as if he had done nothing.

The Subdivisional Officer has rightly characterised the Manager's conduct as cowardly and brutal. But has such conduct been adequately punished with only a fine of Rs. 150? That men like the accused may learn a lesson, they should be sent to jail.

19. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 9th August says that the Editor has again received complaints against Babu Umacharan Rai, Sub-Deputy Collector of Bagerhat, in connection with the local theatre. The District Magistrate ought to pay a visit to Bagerhat and enquire into the cause of the popular complaints against Babu Umacharan.

If Babu Umacharan has become unpopular in Bagerhat, the best course would be to transfer him from the station.

20. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 9th August says that Babu Kumud Nath Mukharji, who has been appointed to officiate as Magistrate of Rangpur, entered the service in 1874 as Sub-Deputy Collector of Bhadrak, and was gradually promoted to a Deputy Magistrateship. Although he has been in service for so long a time, he is not known as a specially able officer. It is not clear, therefore, why Government gave him the officiating Magistrateship in preference to men who have a reputation in the service. Only the best men should be appointed to such posts.

21. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th August is very glad that Kumar Ramendra Krishna Dev, Bahadur, and Babu Kumudnath Mukharji, have been appointed Officiating District Magistrates and Collectors. After the death of Babu Umesh Chandra Batabyal, this is the first time that Deputy Magistrates have been entrusted with the charge of districts.

22. A correspondent complains in the same paper that the District Magistrate of Burdwan has this year refused to grant gun licenses even to those who were granted such licenses last year. These people have been deprived of their guns, which have now been kept in the *malkhana*. It is most likely that the guns and revolvers, some of which are indeed valuable, which have been thus impounded, will be injured. The Magistrate ought not to have thus escheated these guns, or to have kept them impounded in this way.

23. Referring to the punishment inflicted upon Pandit Gopinathji, the *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 13th August observes that the Panditji is a well known man in India. His name is familiar to all Indians, specially because when the Maharaja of Kashmir was being illtreated by the Resident of that State, the Panditji boldly and heroically took up the Maharaja's cause, and tried his best to get him out of difficulty. The vigour with which the Panditji championed the cause of the Maharaja, in spite of the hostility of the Government officials, extorted the admiration of even the Europeans. Today the Panditji is in jail. He was charged with defaming the character of

SRI SRI VISHNU
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the Aryya Samaj in a newspaper article written by him on the *Holi*. When the Panditji apologised to the Aryya Samaj, the latter accepted the apology, and the Court, too, directed the Panditji to bring two persons who could stand as security for his good conduct for one year. The Panditji has nevertheless been sentenced to four months' simple imprisonment.

PRABHAT,
Aug. 15th, 1900.

24. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 15th August writes that it is rumoured that the Government has resolved to raise an additional Rs. 10,000 in the Nadia district on account of the Road Cess Fund. How this amount is to be raised is not known, but it is well known that if the holder of an estate or tenure, who is served with a notice, calling upon him to lodge the road cess return, fails to lodge it without showing sufficient cause, he is liable to a daily fine of Rs. 50. In the notice with which a Nadia zaminder has been served, the last paragraph regarding the extension of time for the submission of the return has been expunged, and in its place it is written that no extension of time will be granted. It thus appears that there is some ground for the rumour in question. The following occurs in section 18 of the Cess Act:—"All holders of estates or tenures in respect of which such notice has been served who shall, *without sufficient cause being shown to the satisfaction of the Collector*, refuse or omit to lodge the required return in the office of such Collector within the time allowed by such notice in respect of the estate or tenure which they hold, or within any extended time which may have been allowed by the Collector for lodging such return, shall be severally liable to a fine which may extend to Rs. 50 for every day after the expiration of such time or extended time until such return is furnished," &c., &c. What are the zamindars of Nadia to do?

(d)—Education.

PRATIVASI,
Aug. 18th, 1900.

25. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August has the following:—

The only duty of the Calcutta University is to hold examinations and frame rules for conducting those examinations. But these rules are of a strange kind. Questions on a particular subject are set by one man, but the answer papers are examined by a score or more of men. The unprecedentedly large percentage of failures in English in the B.A. examination this year was undoubtedly due to the absence of a uniform standard in the examination. The University authorities are not also careful in their selection of examiners. Mistakes are committed almost every year in the setting of questions, and many questions betray either ignorance or want of judgment on the part of the examiners. There was a mistake in a question set to the candidates for the Roy Chand Prem Chand Studentship examination. This mistake was rectified in the Calendar. The F.A. students have to read a mathematical text-book full of mistakes. The students complain of these mistakes, but neither the author nor the University authorities care for them.

But a greater joke has been perpetrated by the Senate of the Calcutta University. Pandit Nrisinha Chandra Mukharji, a second class M.A. in Sanskrit, has been elected a member of the Mathematical Board of Studies. The duty of this Board is to select text-books even for the B.A. and M.A. examinations, and higher mathematics is such an intricate subject that none but those who have kept up their mathematical studies are expected to remember it. Even mathematical experts commit mistakes in setting questions on mathematics. How could the Senate consider Nrisinha Babu fit for giving intelligent opinions on mathematical questions? Again, Mahendra Babu, who is a mathematician, has been elected a member of the History Board. Who is to solve this mystery? How is one to explain this policy of setting a blacksmith to do the work of a potter? Is the Government quite indifferent in the matter? Will the Government remain satisfied with leaving the management of the affairs of the University—the sole instrument of forming our national character—to a set of irresponsible lawyers who have nothing to do with education? Is the Government not aware that these people are abusing their powers and turning the University into a huge joke?

The members of the Senate of the Calcutta University are now trying to increase the percentage of passes in the Entrance and F.A. examinations. They

are not trying to reform the system of education, but only to increase the percentage of passes. They have no knowledge of the conveniences and inconveniences of the students. They are reducing the mathematical course by giving the students less and less of Conic Sections to read. It is, however, well known that the students who are deficient in mathematics have generally to depend upon Conic Sections to pass the examination. The portion of Algebra, which has been left out of the course, is indispensably necessary to those who are to read higher mathematics. It seems that the Senate are gradually trying to root out from the student's mind the desire to acquire knowledge, and yet Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, Mr. Justice Gurudas Banerji and Babu Kali Charan Banerji are quite indifferent. Let us conclude our article by quoting the following words of John Stuart Mill:—"Bad men require nothing so much for the accomplishment of their ends than that good men should only look on and do nothing."

26. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 15th August writes that there are brothels at the south-west corner of the *bustee* in front of the Eden Hindu Hostel. Have the Hostel authorities enquired whether the contiguity of these brothels is polluting the morals of the inmates of the Hostel? Will they take steps to remove these brothels if they find that they are exercising a baneful influence upon the Hostel students?

PRABHAT,
Aug. 15th, 1900.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

27. The *Som Prakash* [Calcutta] of the 6th August complains that Mr. Bright, Chairman of the Calcutta Municipality, has fixed 10-30 A.M. as the hour when the municipal employes should attend office. Up to the present time the employes had to attend office at 11 A.M., and the new rule is causing great hardship to the clerks. Late comers are heavily fined, and this is a great hardship. Mr. Bright's health is not good. He has applied to the Government for leave, but his application has not yet been granted. Mrs. Bright, also, is against her husband taking leave. Mr. Bright is thus in very bad humour, and he is venting his spleen upon the poor clerks.

SOM PRAKASH,
Aug. 6th, 1900.

28. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 8th August says that no meeting of the Committee appointed for the management of the Barisal charitable dispensary has been held since the last municipal election in that town. The names of the members, too, who have been elected to the Committee by the District Board, have not yet been published in the *Calcutta Gazette*. The cause of delay in publishing these names is not clear. The writer is not inclined to believe the rumour that Government is not willing to confirm the election of Babus Aswini Kumar Datta and Tarini Kumar Gupta, and hence the delay. No one would be fit to serve on the Committee if men like the above two Babus are not elected.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
Aug. 8th, 1900.

No meeting of the Committee having been held for a long time, the work of the dispensary is not going on satisfactorily. Complaints are heard that the Assistant Surgeon in charge of the dispensary often tells patients suffering from complicated disease to their face that they have no chance of recovery. Other complaints, too, are heard against the working of the dispensary.

29. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 9th August draws attention to the prevalence of cow-pox in a most virulent form among cattle in the Morrelganj, Dumuria and Batheghata thanas, in the Khulna district, and says that the want of plough cattle is seriously interfering with agricultural operations. As the disease has been raging in the district for the last three or four years, a commission ought to be appointed to enquire into its cause.

KHULNA,
Aug. 9th, 1900.

30. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 9th August draws attention to the increasing virulence of malarial fever in Chittagong town, and says that this is due to the absence of sanitary improvements, to bad drainage and to bad drinking water. The soil of the town being sandy, a large portion of the water which flows down from the springs on the hills enters the soil. The drainage, too, is extremely

JYOTI,
Aug. 9th, 1900.

defective. The Chaktai *khal* and the Karnaphuli river, which served as outfalls for the municipal drainage channels, having silted up, the outfalls are now at a higher level than their beds. The railway line, too, in spite of the efforts of the authorities, has largely interfered with the drainage of the town. Spring water is not available for drinking purposes to those who cannot keep servants to fetch it. Such people, therefore, generally drink tank water, even if it be bad.

In 1897, a Committee was formed for looking after the sanitation of the town. At one of its meetings it was resolved (1) to re-excavate the Chaktai *khal* and clear the jungle on its banks, (2) to ask the District Board and the Municipality to bear the cost of this work, (3) to construct a park in the town, and (4) to reserve a sufficient number of wells and tanks in different parts of the town for the supply of good drinking water. None of these schemes, however, have yet been carried out. The outbreak of fever this year has become a cause of anxiety to the Magistrate, as even the European residents are not enjoying immunity. The leading residents have submitted a memorial to the Magistrate praying him to adopt remedial measures.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,
Aug. 7th, 1900.

31. A correspondent of the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th August complains that there is only one peon for delivering letters, &c., in the Ghatal post office in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district. Although the jurisdiction of that post office extends over ten to twelve miles from north to south and more than that distance from east to west, letters are, in consequence, delivered only once or twice within a week. This causes much inconvenience to the villagers. Some time ago a memorial was submitted for the employment of another peon, but no order has yet been passed on it.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 8th, 1900.

32. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 8th August complains of the delay which takes place in the delivery of letters, &c., in the villages Dari, Tentulia and Kandra, within the jurisdiction of the Sripur post office, in the Hooghly district. The mail which arrives at the Sripur post office at 2 P.M. is delivered in those two villages at 1-30-P.M. the next day, although neither of them is more than a mile and a half from the post office. The employment of one more peon will remove this inconvenience.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 10th, 1900.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th August hears that a vernacular newspaper in Bengal will be prosecuted on the charge of inciting the public to rebellion for police oppression. There may be impassioned writing in Bengal, but no sedition. It is hoped that the Government will not take impassioned writing for sedition. The writers of this newspaper have no sympathy with rebellion. It is hoped that the authorities will not make a mountain of a mole-hill.

HITAVADI.

34. The same paper writes as follows with reference to the case of Mr. Jolly:—

The case of Mr. Jolly.

Mr. Jolly, an Extra-Assistant Commissioner in Assam, was prosecuted on the charge of theft and cheating. It is said that the Officiating Chief Commissioner of Assam made an enquiry into his case and dismissed him. In his post Mr. Hunter, a dismissed police officer of Madras, has been taken. This is no doubt a farce, and we hope that Mr. Cotton has or will have nothing to do with it. A correspondent writes in the *Bengalee* that the dismissal of Mr. Jolly and the appointment of Mr. Hunter are both Lord Curzon's own doing. We hesitate to believe this. If an officer dismissed in one Province is appointed in another, dismissal from service will not be regarded as a punishment. We cannot, moreover, understand why an officer prosecuted under the Indian Penal Code has been dismissed. He ought to have been publicly tried.

PRATIVASI,
Aug. 13th, 1900.

35. The *Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August has the following with reference to the sending of troops to China from India:—

India's military expenditure. It is no doubt a great pleasure that India is considered to be in a position to help England in her trouble. The authorities have certainly earned the

gratitude of grateful India by giving her an opportunity to express her gratitude. But there is one thing to be considered. India is groaning under a heavy burden of military expenditure. She will be materially relieved if her military expenditure is reduced. But the authorities say that India has not to maintain more troops than she requires for her defence, and that her safety will be jeopardised if the numerical strength of the Indian army is reduced. We, however, see that troops are sent from India to various places in the vast British Empire. Troops were sent from India to South Africa, and about twenty-two thousand Indian troops are going to be sent to China. Were all these troops required for the defence of India? The Government would not have sent these troops out of India if there had been any clear chance of the safety of the country being thereby endangered. It must, therefore, be admitted that India could very well do without these troops. Why then is she made to bear the expenditure of these superfluous troops? The troops that India requires for her own defence are the troops which are urgently necessary for her. The surplus troops which can be sent to other countries can be safely dispensed with. It is thus quite clear that India has to support troops which are required, not for her own use, but for the use of the Empire.

India is indebted to England. India is a part and parcel of the British Empire. It is her duty to sympathise with the Empire in its weal and woe. It is, therefore, a part of her duty to maintain an army for the defence of the Empire. But she is not rich enough to fulfil this duty. Famine is her constant companion, the charity of the world is her sole means of subsistence. How can she afford to support an army for the good of the Empire? England is immensely rich, and can afford to pay these surplus troops. Let her then relieve India of a portion of her gigantic military expenditure.

The Government has, in one respect, earned our gratitude by sending Indian troops to China. It is a proof that India's loyalty is not suspected. England would not have dared to send so many troops out of India if she had even an inkling of suspicion about Indian loyalty. It is hoped that the conduct of the Government will be a lesson to those who, like the *Englishman*, smell sedition everywhere—in every bush and tree,—and wish to bind the Indian people hand and foot. Depending upon India's loyalty, England has sent so many troops out of this country. Let her reward this loyalty by partially relieving India of her military expenditure.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

36. The *Samay* [Calcutta] of the 10th August has the following with reference to the Governor-General's communication to the Nizam's Government regarding jurisdiction over Europeans and Americans in Native States:—

Europeans in Native States.

Such is our misfortune that whoever comes to India is sure to become bureaucratic in his disposition. Thanks to the Indian soil, even an Englishman, who comes out with a resolution to rule the Indians with kindness and benevolence, forgets his sacred resolution as soon as he sets foot on Indian soil. English officials,—large-hearted, justice-loving and impartial English officials,—who, since their birth, have been nursed and brought up in an atmosphere of liberty, equality and fraternity, have their judgment and sense of duty sadly warped by the Indian climate and by a close association with Anglo-Indian officialdom. The correctness of this statement is proved by the communication addressed by Lord Curzon to the Nizam's Government regarding jurisdiction over Europeans and Americans in Native States—by the high-minded Lord Curzon, who is a pattern of justice, impartiality and large-heartedness; who has been so much pained by the sufferings of the famine-stricken multitude, that he has not hesitated to beg for subscriptions even in foreign countries and from door to door; who is now touring in the famine-stricken tracts of the country, without caring for the inconveniences and hardships of the season; who has issued circular after circular to ensure the protection of native life and the chastity of native women; who takes pity even upon the poor clerks in Government offices, and is often taking high-handed office-masters to task; and does not hesitate to rebuke officials, committing injustice, in resolutions published in the official *Gazette*.

SAMAY,
Aug. 10th, 1900.

It is quite clear from the Viceroy's communication that the Residents will henceforward lord it over the Native States, and that even Native Chiefs will not be able to do anything without their permission. If, again, a European or American offender in a Native State be a servant of the British Government, he cannot be prosecuted without the permission of that Government. Only European Police Inspectors will have the right to enquire into a charge against a European or American offender in a Native State, and in his trial the provisions laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code will have to be strictly adhered to.

There is a class of ignorant and ill-bred Europeans who are in the habit of ill-treating and punishing natives. If Lord Curzon's new order is carried into effect, it will be impossible to keep these Europeans in check. By this order the Native Chiefs will also be tied hand and foot. They are even now in eternal dread of Europeans. They will be compelled to renounce all sovereignty and seek seclusion. It is hoped that Lord Curzon will reconsider his decision and withdraw his order.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Aug. 13th, 1900.

37. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 13th August has the following:—

The Gwalior gift and the Maharaja of Baroda in the famine.

The Maharaja of Gwalior is going to spend some thirty lakhs of rupees and purchase a hospital ship for the Chinese war, and perhaps the Gaekwar of Baroda will fit out another hospital-ship. In this connection the *Pioneer* says that the Maharaja of Baroda does not properly perform his duties. He always roams about in Europe in search of *Bibis*. When he was touring about he forgot the famine. Among Europeans also there are such rulers. When the famine was raging in the Central Provinces, Lord Elgin was eating the dinners given by two Rajas. The people of the Deccan were dying of starvation when Lord Lytton held the Delhi Darbar.

PRABHAT,
Aug. 15th 1900.

38. The *Prabhat* [Calcutta] of the 15th August has the following:—

The Gwalior gift.

The gift of twenty lakhs of rupees made by the ruler of Gwalior to wealthy England, in utter disregard of the severe distress prevailing among his own subjects and countrymen, is a piece of shamelessness which is without precedent or parallel. What does it prove? It proves that India is sinking to the lowest depths of degradation which it is possible for a subject people to reach, and that even our notions of right and wrong have confessed themselves vanquished by Englishmen.

The loadstone mountain of the Arabian Tales attracted all iron ships towards itself. Similarly the ships which have so long proved the refuge of poor India are all of them at this moment finding themselves attracted towards England, that magnetic mountain, and it has become difficult for us to keep our aims steady and our minds undisturbed. That is why when thousands of Sindia's own subjects, unable to procure even a handful of rice, are dying with their last look fixed on their Maharaja's full granaries, his money is being attracted across the ocean towards the over-flowing exchequer of England. This is really a bad sign of the bad times that have come upon India.

It is really alarming to think that the fascination of English applause has become so dangerously powerful that it can overpower even the promptings of pity and charity and the dictates of duty, and can make one callous to the despondent lamentations of countless dying men and women.

So deeply did the King Ram Chandra realise the importance of pleasing his subjects, that he disregarded even the duty which as a husband he owed to his wife—then in a delicate state of health. But a Hindu ruler though he is, the Maharaja of Gwalior has attached greater importance to securing the goodwill of the wealthy than saving the lives of a hundred thousand of his own people. To earn for themselves a lasting place in the hearts of their subjects is a prize which our Native Princes no longer covet with the eagerness with which they covet kind and favourable glances from the Englishman's eyes, even though they be cast for one briefest moment.

For the Indians, the principal incentive to duty does not now come from within but from without, it is not found at home but hails from a distant land. To be honoured by our own countrymen, by our own people, was, in the past, our principal incentive to duty. In those days we secured the good opinion of our friends and found satisfaction in the consciousness of having done our

duty by building temples, establishing rest-houses and excavating tanks. Such works have now ceased to give us pleasure, and we do not care to do anything which fails to attract the notice of Englishmen. It is this fact which is depriving native language, literature, fine arts, even religion and morals of their much-needed support and encouragement. Why are the masters of native music like birds which have lost their nests leaving Gwalior, the Native State, that is, which was once a famous seat of Indian music? Because native music is not appreciated or encouraged by the native ruler. Why are the Indian arts, so highly appreciated at one time, on the point of extinction? Because we slavishly shape our minds and tastes to the tune of other people's minds and tastes. Beauty we see with the Englishman's eye. What the Englishman appreciates, we too appreciate. Lastly there is this sign of utter degradation that the fleeting applause of Englishmen is permitted to overpower and belittle even the dictates of eternal *dharma*.

The endeavour which is being made by Lord Curzon to bind the Indian Princes closely to the British Imperial system is a proof of His Excellency's statesmanship, and if the Government of India keeps the object steadily in view, there can be no doubt that these native feudatories will be able to secure for themselves greater respect and immunity from the many small insults and affronts to which they are at present subjected. The policy is such as every Indian should approve and appreciate, and we believe that it is this policy which has prompted the Gwalior gift.

Nevertheless the fact that the gift has been made at a time when India is in sore distress will lead everyone to condemn it as extremely improper and unrighteous. And such a gift is, in our opinion, inconsistent with higher statesmanship and opposed to every kind of principle.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

39 The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 7th August writes as follows:—

CHARU MIHIR
Aug. 7th, 1900.

The causes of Indian famine.

It is strange that though famines have occurred so repeatedly, their causes have not yet been discovered. We should not have thought this strange if this had been some other country than India. It fills us not only with wonder, but also with sorrow, to think that though the British Government rules the country with all its eyes open, the cause of frequent famines has not yet been traced. Within the last hundred years not less than thirty-four famines have visited this country, and all of them have been due either to want of food-grains or to want of money. Want of food-grains results from drought or excessive rainfall, visitations which are beyond the control of man. Want of money may be caused either by the indolence of the people, or by social or political conditions. But the Indians are not an indolent people. So, want of money in India is probably due to peculiar social and political conditions. These conditions ought to be changed in such a manner as to remove India's want of money.

Many people had thought that railway extension would put a stop to famine. But famine continues to occur in spite of railway extension. There have been two famines within the last four years, and the railways have been of little use in either preventing or mitigating them. The truth is that when the country's own stock of food-grains is exhausted, it is not possible for other countries to fully replenish that stock.

40. The *Manbhum* [Purulia] of the 14th August complains of the prevalence of food and water scarcity in the Bagda and Palma parganas, in the Manbhum district. Poor agriculturists and agricultural labourers are both feeling the pinch of scarcity. There have not been sufficient rains, and the agricultural outlook is gloomy. The *mahajans* are not helping the raiyats with loans of grain. The *bhadoi* crop was quite unsatisfactory. There are no large tanks in the above-mentioned parganas, and the water-scarcity also is very great.

Food and water scarcity in the Manbhum district.

MANBHUM,
Aug 14th, 1900.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

BASUMATI,
Aug. 9th, 1900.

41. The *Basumati* [Calcutta] of the 9th August says that during his late visit to Ulubaria, Sir John Woodburn eagerly enquired into local wants and grievances, and on hearing of the death of Babu Gopal Chandra Daw, late Executive Engineer, Rajapur Division, sent through the Subdivisional Officer a message of condolence to his family. His Honour also expressed a wish to take the deceased gentleman's son into the Government service. Such sympathy with the subject people is an excellent quality in Indian rulers and enables them to win the affection of the people. Simply travelling about the country, holding darbars and receiving addresses, may show a ruler's activity, but does little good to the country.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 10th, 1900.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th August has the following:—
Dislike leads to fault-finding, and we naturally find fault with a person whom we do not like. In the opinion of some officials, the faults of the native papers are almost innumerable. In their opinion there is no impartiality, but a good deal of the fault-finding; no criticism, but a good deal of abuse in the native press. Let a Magistrate do an injustice, let a European be guilty of an act of high-handedness, and the native press will give it a wide publicity with no little colouring of its own. But the thousand and one acts of justice, the innumerable good acts of the officials—of these the native press keeps no account, for these it has not a word of praise or laudation. Impartiality, to say the least, is rare in the native press.

We have a word or two to say on this subject. Words at once good and pleasant are rare in this world. It is impossible for the native press to satisfy those who want to be praised for doing their duties—for not neglecting what it is their duty to do. The native papers have not space enough for a full and exhaustive enumeration of the acts of justice done by European Judges and Magistrates. If it is true that we ferret out acts of oppression and injustice and give them a wide publicity, we can have no other object than the prevention of oppression and high-handedness. A fault cannot be rectified if we always try to conceal it.

If we had been under the rule of the Kols or Bhils, Goths or Vandals, Tartars or Turks, we would not have dared to say all this; we would not have had the liberty to give expression to our feelings of discontent. But we live under the British rule: we are the subjects of Her Majesty the Queen-Empress. We all desire the stability and permanency of British rule in India, and that is why we never hesitate to give publicity to public grievances, public discontent, and public feeling.

There are officials who are anxious to be impartial, just and liberty-loving, who are always resolved to remove the grievances of the public. Still these officials do not like to hear unpalatable truths, and cannot control their anger if their faults, personal or national, are spoken of or exposed. The Indian journalist is in the position of Gil Blas, the hero of Le Sage's novel. Gil Blas was in the service of an eminent ecclesiastic. He was highly favoured by his master so long as he praised his master's sermons and writings. But as soon as he came to find fault with these he was dismissed. This is the fate which overtakes a man who tries to become a critic instead of being a flatterer. This is also the reason why we are not liked by the officials.

If it is disloyalty or ingratitude to point out defects in British rule or to express dissatisfaction with the wrong-doing of an official, then we are undone. What is a newspaper for if it does not try to prevent oppression and high-handedness? It is the best proof of loyalty to interpret the feelings of the ruled towards the rulers, and explain to the ruled the policy of the rulers. Nothing also better promotes the contentment of the public. Ram Chandra was the ideal Indian ruler. He rebuked Durmukh, because he hesitated to report fully and freely to him the feeling that inspired his subjects. But the rulers of these days are dissatisfied with those who, instead of concealing public discontent, let the rulers know of it.

But is it true that we never praise but always find fault with an official? We have always loudly praised the official who has had a few good words to

say to us, who has tried to do us some good. Not to speak of Lord Ripon, the native press has praised even officials like Messrs. Phillips and Beatson-Bell, who have incurred public displeasure and whose conduct has incensed public discontent, whenever they have done some good to the public. In no country has a light punishment for a serious offence won the approbation of the public. Yet it is we, and we alone, who are charged with abusing our rulers, simply because we speak the truth.

Sir Francis Maclean won the approbation of the public by doing justice in the Barrackpore case. We praise even those Magistrates who inflict a light punishment for a serious offence. It is not necessary to praise a Judge or a Magistrate for doing justice, but we have done even this, simply because justice is so rare. Whenever a native is killed by a European we almost take it for granted that the offender will be either let off or fined a few rupees. It is no doubt wrong to make such a surmise without waiting for the decision of the court, but can the officials say that such surmising is absolutely unjustifiable? The prevailing oppression and high-handedness is the cause of such surmising. We tell our rulers that we make such surmise, and we do so, because we desire the stability and permanency of British rule.

It is no wonder that we should be found fault with by those who think that natives die simply to put Europeans to trouble, concealing a diseased and broken-down constitution under a healthy appearance. Alas! race partiality! does a man lose even common sense under your influence?

43. The same paper has the following:—

Indian poverty—its cause.

Sir Charles Elliott regarded the increase of population in India as a very serious problem. He once plainly gave it out as his opinion that nothing was more alarming from the administrative point of view than this increase of population. How are so many people to be fed? The English weaver has extirpated the Indian weaver so to say, and is clothing all India. The English blacksmith is supplying even the Indian peasant with his ploughshare. The English planter is growing indigo and wheat and paddy. All the high posts in the public service are held by Englishmen. In the army, Englishmen are all in all, and in the import and export trade and in mining, English influence is all powerful. All paying and profitable occupations are in the hands of Englishmen. And yet in India there are three hundred millions of men and women. These millions are to be fed, are to be kept alive. This thought is the most alarming, this problem the most serious in the eye of the English ruler.

This thought is also very perplexing to us. Keep the natural animal instinct of the man gratified and he will be as divine as a god, as patient and forbearing as a tree. But if this natural instinct remains ungratified; if a man does not get his food when hungry; if he does not get any help in danger; if his natural hankering after creature comforts is not at least partially gratified: then the hungry man will become a fiend and will bring about a revolution. Even the possibility of such a catastrophe is a source of fear to the rulers, and means the utter ruin of the ruled. It is with the object of removing the poverty of the Indian people and of keeping them calm and quiet that various means are being suggested and discussed. These means are hollow fads which can deceive only the ignorant. If these fads are given effect to, they will only cause untold injury to us.

One of these fads is the fad of technical education. Technical schools have been opened in almost every district, and steps are going to be taken to teach young children on the Kindergarten lines, with the view of teaching the Indian people and the Indian students industrial occupations—the occupations, that is, of blacksmith, potter, basket-maker, &c. There is a cry of technical education abroad. But a writer in the *Bombay Gazette* has exposed the mystery of this fad of technical education. He writes:—"Technical education for practical work is one thing; a desire to instil a *dilettante* taste for industrial arts and crafts is quite another . . . The teaching that is required is the practical training of the workshop; and the difficulty is to make that possible in the school." This is very true. Practical training imparted by technical experts is what is needed, and not hollow technical education with the help of pictures. A Bengali trained in a technical school is not expected to stem the tide of foreign

HITAVADI,
Aug. 10th, 1900.

imports into the country. The *Statesman* has rightly said "the first condition of a remunerative demand is that the thing produced should meet the wants of a sufficient public with the means of paying for it." Will the commodities turned out by people, who have received a technical education, find a market in this country?

England is the mistress of India, yet cheap, glittering, German articles have flooded the Bengal markets. The poor Indian purchaser does not understand political economy: does not appreciate patriotism. All that he wants is cheap articles. The cheaper these articles, the better is he able to indulge in luxury. It is impossible for India to compete successfully with Europe in commerce and industry, so long as free trade is not interfered with. The money spent in founding technical schools is money wasted.

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMBALPUR
HATAISHINI.
July 25th, 1900.

44. Referring to the ruling of the District Magistrate of Patna that prostitutes should, as a general rule, be located in a particular part of the town, not exposed to the public view, the *Sambalpur Hitaishini* [Bamra] of the 25th July observes that the order is a good one, and should, as far as practicable, be carried out in other important towns in British India.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI,

45. The same paper deeply regrets that notwithstanding all the efforts of the Government of India, about six and-a-half lakhs of men, women, and children died of famine and its consequent evils in Rajputana and Gujrat, and that more are expected to die, if circumstances do not become favourable.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

46. Referring to the proposal that 25 years' service will henceforward count towards good service pension, the same paper remarks that it is a good one, and, if carried out, will make a large number of the devoted servants of Her Majesty ever grateful to Lord Curzon.

SAMBALPUR
HITAISHINI.

47. Referring to the currency of the sovereign in British India, the same paper points out that the Indians are a comparatively poor people, and it cannot be expected that the sovereign will be much used by them. The writer therefore favours the proposal of creating a gold coin, valued at rupees five each.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.
July 25th, 1900.

48. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 25th July states that the health of the Balasore town is very bad, and that fever is to be found in almost every house. The writer expects that the state of things will be changed by heavy showers of rain.

SAMVADVAHIKA.
July 26th, 1900.

49. The *Samradvahika* [Balasore] of the 26th July is of opinion that the decline of the Balasore town is due mainly to the abolition of salt manufacture, and hopes that Government will find some means whereby to encourage the manufacture of salt in Balasore, for this manufacture will give work to many poor men, women and children.

UTKALDIPKA,
July 28th, 1900.

50. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 28th July regrets to find that there is a general cry for rain-water in the district of Cuttack, and observes that, unless it rains soon, the *beali* paddy will be lost altogether and the *sarad* paddy will be much injured.

UTKALDIPKA.

51. The same paper is very sorry to learn that Sir William Wedderburn has expressed his desire to resign his seat as a member of the Indian Parliamentary Committee in England, as he has found it very difficult to do any good to the Indians under the present state of things, and observes that India will feel the loss of his services very much.

UTKALDIPKA.

52. The same paper draws the attention of the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate of Cuttack to the conduct of the head-constable, Kisannager outpost, in the criminal case, Panchu Maharna and others *versus* Fakir Sudi and others, that was lately tried by Babu Purna Chandra Mullik, Deputy Magistrate,

Cuttack, whose judgment refers to the head-constable in very objectionable terms.

53. The same paper draws the attention of the Home Government to the causes of famine noted by Mr. Hyndman, and hopes that both the English and Indian Governments will join to remove those causes without any delay.

UTKALDIPIKA,
July 28th, 1900.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 18th August, 1900.

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